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FROM: Austria, Vienna

REPORT NO. EAV-7601

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: []

NO. OF PAGES: 2

REPORT PROCESSED BY: []

NO. OF ATTACHMENTS: 0

REPORT APPROVED BY: []

REFERENCES: EAV-7557, 7584

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AUG 23 1961

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SOURCE: []

SOURCE, OPERATIONAL DATA, AND COMMENTS:

For the RI Main Index: Wolfgang *PFAUNDLER

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHOD EXEMPTION 3828
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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COUNTRY Austria/Italy

REPORT NO. EAV - 7601

SUBJECT Recent Developments in the South Tirol Crisis

DATE OF REPORT 10 August 1961

NO. PAGES 2

REFERENCES EAV - 7557, 7584

EAS
OIR
ECF

DATE OF INFO.

February - July 1961

PLACE &

DATE ACQ.

Austria, Vienna (9 August 1961)

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SOURCE

With contacts in South Tirolean extremist circles (F).
Appraisal of Content: 2.

Crippling of the BAS Organization

1. Arrests in the South Tirol in late July 1961 have severely crippled the underground Befreiungsaktion für Suidtirol (BAS). Observers now state that the efficiency and tenacity of this resistance group were originally much overrated. Many BAS arrestees have broken down under Italian interrogation and have made possible the arrest of other BAS activists and the discovery of numerous explosives caches. Some observers doubt that the BAS can long continue in effective existence.

Procurement of German Watches

2. Underground groups in the South Tirol have procured a quantity of pocket watches from Germany to serve as components of time fuses for demolition charges.

Wolfgang Pfandler

3. At the Innsbruck Sanatorium der Kreuzschwestern in February 1961 a tumor the size of an infant's head was removed from the abdomen of Wolfgang Pfandler. He then went to West Germany to recuperate. While he was there in March 1961 the famous explosives cache was found in the apartment rented by him on Innsbruck's Haydnplatz. Upon his return from Germany in March Pfandler voluntarily appeared at police headquarters for questioning. He claimed at that time that the explosives found in his apartment were not his but had been placed there by Italian agents. In view of Pfandler's delicate state of health he was not arrested.

(3)

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4. Pfandl is on closest friendly terms with Dr. Elmar Gamper of the South Tirol desk (Section II, Division 5) of the Austrian Foreign Ministry. Elmar Gamper is the son of Landesrat Hans Gamper of the Tirolean provincial government, one of Pfandl's financial supporters.

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10 aug 61

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